

**Opening Statement**  
**The Honorable Ralph Hall (R-TX)**  
**Ranking Member**  
**Committee on Science and Technology**  
**Markup of**

- **H.R. 2337**, *Energy Policy Reform and Revitalization Act of 2007*
- **H.R. 2850**, *Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2007*

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this markup today. I am pleased we are marking up Dr. Gingrey's Green Chemistry Research and Development bill today. This is a good bill that has passed the House of Representative twice already. Hopefully, this time the other body will recognize its merits.

It is my understanding that we will be recessing the committee following consideration of HR 2850, the Green Chemistry Research and Development Program. I am disappointed to hear that the committee may not markup HR 2337, the Energy Policy Reform and Revitalization Act of 2007, and may instead have an exchange of letters with the Resources Committee pending agreement on a couple of provisions. A number of Members on our side of the aisle have expressed concern about other provisions in this bill that are within this committee's jurisdiction. I had hoped that we could have a full and open debate on this legislation.

I have a number of concerns with this legislation. I am primarily concerned that it may have a negative effect on American consumers and our energy independence. As I have expressed on a number of occasions, America is at a crossroads. We are faced with large energy challenges, such as an ever increasing demand for energy, that will inevitably drive up costs for our taxpayers, threaten our national security, and hamper our ability to compete in the world marketplace. This concern is shared by several organizations, such as the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

We must meet these energy challenges head on by increasing our domestic supply using all available resources. This bill, however, moves our country in the opposite direction. It repeals several bipartisan provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and it will result in increased dependence on foreign energy, higher prices for American consumers and a loss of American jobs. There are provisions in this bill that limit upgrading energy transmission and distribution facilities, delay development of oil shale and tar sands leasing contracts, add layers of bureaucracy to slow oil and gas operations, impose new fees on oil and gas leases, and establish new requirements that will make wind energy unaffordable.

I urge the Chairman to move forward with the markup of this legislation in this committee. The Science and Technology Committee has a lot to add to this debate, and I would be disappointed if we did not give our Members that opportunity.